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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 September 2002, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Prandler ..... (Hungary)

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02-60045 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** thanked the members of the Sixth Committee for the honour they had shown him and his country in electing him Chairman, and said that he would need their full cooperation in order to accomplish the important work assigned to them by the General Assembly.

Election of the Bureau

2. *Mr. Akamatsu (Japan), Mr. Cabrera (Peru) and Mr. Zellweger (Switzerland) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

3. *Mr. Medrek (Morocco) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/C.6/56/L.1)

4. **The Chairman** drew attention to the note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the Committee (A/C.6/57/L.1). As in previous years, the work programme would be applied with flexibility and modified in the light of the progress made in the work of the Committee. However, it was important to use effectively the time and conference services made available to the Committee. In that connection, it was a matter of concern that the utilization rate, which had been 79 per cent in 1999, and 78 per cent in 2000, had fallen below 63 per cent in 2001, which was well below the benchmark of 80 per cent established by the Committee on Conferences.

5. Concerning the proposed timetable, which was the outcome of informal consultations organized by the Legal Counsel, he recalled that the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolution 56/93 of 12 December 2002, had recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings should continue its work during the fifty-seventh session within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee. Moreover, in its resolutions 56/88 and 56/89 respectively, the General Assembly had decided that the Committee's work on agenda items 160, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and 161 "Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel" should continue, within the framework of a working group of the Committee.

6. It was his understanding that the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings, Mr. Tomka, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, was available to serve as Chairman of the Working Group on the elaboration of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairman** observed that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/93, the Ad Hoc Committee was open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition, the Secretary-General was requested to invite the specialized agencies that worked and had substantial interest in the field of bioethics, including, in particular, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, to participate as observers in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. He suggested that the same formula should be applied to the Working Group.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chairman** said that since several delegations had expressed an interest in being briefed on the proposed transfer of the technical secretariat of the Sixth Committee to the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services as contained in document A/57/289 and in discussing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs (E/AC.51/2002/5), he would suggest that the Committee should return to those issues during future meetings, after certain procedural matters had been clarified.

11. He took it that the Committee expected to complete its work on 7 November 2002.

12. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.